

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S.1116, As Amended**
(Doc. No. jud116.003)

TO:	The Honorable Glenn McConnell, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Allan Kincaid, Ken Brown and Harry Bell		
DATE:	March 20, 2006	SBD:	2006130
AUTHOR:	Senator McConnell	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	43-35-10
SUBJECT:	SLED - Vulnerable Adults Investigative Unit		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:
A Cost to the General Fund (See Below)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:
\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

BILL SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 1116, as amended, would establish the Vulnerable Adults Investigations Unit within the South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division to investigate abuse, neglect and exploitation of vulnerable adults and vulnerable adult fatalities.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

State Law Enforcement Division – SLED

SLED indicates there will be a cost to the General Fund of the State to carry out the responsibilities as outlined in this Bill. However, implementation costs may vary depending on intent with regard to the duties and responsibilities of the investigative staff. First year cost would be \$1,474,752 if it is the intent that these agents receive training and equipment necessary to respond to emergency situations and conduct criminal investigations other than those specified in this Bill. Such costs would include, among other things, providing each agent with two weapons, a protective vest, several radios and handcuffs. If it is legislative intent that these agents investigate only complaints relative to certain facilities, then first year cost could be estimated at \$1,069,900 which includes purchasing vehicles and phone service, but excludes those items listed above. Cost estimates for SLED are summarized below:

<u>Summary of Estimated Cost to SLED</u>		
	<u>Scenario 1</u>	<u>Scenario 2</u>
Agents (14 FTE's @ \$47,525 with fringe)	\$665,350	\$665,350
1 - Administrative Assistant	\$43,020	\$43,020
Other Operating Expenses	\$201,782	\$40,530
Toll-Free Phone Line	\$6,000	\$6,000
Subtotal - Recurring Cost Estimate	\$916,152	\$754,900
Non-recurring (First Year Only)	\$558,600	\$315,000
Total - First Year Cost	\$1,474,752	\$1,069,900

Lieutenant Governor's Office

The Long Term Care Ombudsman within the Office on Aging currently has abuse, neglect and exploitation of vulnerable adult investigative responsibilities within existing statutes. However, no staff or resources exist to carry out those responsibilities. The Bill further emphasizes the Ombudsman's responsibilities and distinguishes them from SLED's responsibilities with regard to investigations. The Office on Aging indicates there are over 6,000 complaints annually and estimates the cost of carrying out its investigative responsibilities at \$390,250. This includes salary and fringe for seven additional staff at \$302,390 and other operating expenses (rent, travel, supplies, phones, etc.) estimated at \$87,860 annually.

Departments of Social Services, Disabilities and Special Needs, and Mental Health

The Departments indicate this Bill would have no impact on the General Fund of the State or Federal and/or Other Funds.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

None.

SPECIAL NOTES:

None.

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Addy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Don Addy
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget